

JOURNAL FÜR UFO-FORSCHUNG, No. 166 4/2006

ENGLISH SUMMARY

UFO-OBSERVATIONS (pp. 98-109)

This issue has an unexpected trend: foil balloons mistaken for UFOs. On 11 July 2006, a witness saw „an object with the outline of a lunar lander“ which slowly moved across the sky at Langen. It appeared longer than wide and had 4 „legs“ dangling down. The witness likened it to the cartoon character Sponge Bob, and is classified as IFO, a foil balloon with arms and legs dangling down (see illustrations on p. 101). On 1 January 2005, a witness spotted and photographed, at Schiltach, „an oval flying object with four sticks hanging down“. The object moved up and vanished in a layer of low lying clouds. A comparison of the witness's picture with one taken of a flying Sponge Bob-balloon reveals this is what the witness saw. Yet another „object like a parachute ... with a swallow's tail“ was photographed on 11 July 2006 at Freiburg. An enlargement shows the most likely candidate, again, was a balloon with arms and legs.

On 20 July 2006, a Kaufbeuren man saw 10 to 12 lights in the night sky for 10 to 15 seconds. Some of the lights moved and changed direction. It appears this is a new example of so called silent firework in which light sticks are attached to balloons. On 4 August 2006, a Altena man observed „a red spot like an airplane“ moving slowly across the sky until it vanished behind some trees. The optical appearance is close to a fire balloon.

In summer 1986, a man at Gollwitz observed what he and his friends thought was an agricultural foil lifted up by the wind, but he didn't find trace of it where he thought it had come down. However, new gushes of wind could have taken it into the air again.

The last two reports refer to sky trackers. On 3 October 1997, a witness at Berlin-Marzahn saw an orange light appear three times for about five seconds when it flew in a zig-zag-course across the whole horizon. On 9 November 2003, a woman spotted „a pale light following an elliptical course across the sky“ at Donop. She supplied an own computer illustration of the phenomenon which shows the typical optical image of a sky tracker's lights reflected on a cloud layer.

CRUISE INTO SPACE (pp. 111-118)

This German movie, by Sascha Löffl, tells an amusing and fictitious story about a flying saucer which steals the cross of Fulda Cathedral (it invents previous such instances in the past and documents them with news clippings), and the reaction of witnesses, UFO believers and sceptics, as well as the Church. The director is interviewed about his film, the special effects, and his philosophy regarding the UFO enigma.

BILLY MEIER PICTURES AUTHENTIC! (p. 118-119)

Well, so claims Jim Deardorff in a press release from March 2006. The so called wedding cake UFO is supposedly authentic as it hides behind a tree which is at least 20 m high. Interestingly enough, both Karl K Korff and Swiss UFO-researcher Roger Eglin were able to show, long ago, that the wedding cake UFO is made from easily available hardware components, and that Billy Meier has at least once used a modell tree to hoax a picture. Exit Deardorff, who is still thought of as a „scientific“ UFO-researcher in Germany.

ENTOPTIC PHENOMENA (pp. 120-126)

The first part of a series, the article presents several entoptic (in the eye) phenomena which are internal to our visual apparatus and not part of the outside world, such as after images and auras, mouches volantes, stars, and geometric structures. The author refers to scientific and esoteric ideas on how to explain these phenomena.

BRIEF NOTES (p. 127)

UFO over Britain – What is thought of as UAP in Britain is often only a fire balloon – the truth came home when, in August 2006, UFOs were reported over Sunderland and a family later reported it were the balloons they had started.

ET will land in 2012 – says Erich von Däniken. They will land in front of Cologne Cathedral, or some other significant point.